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Wife Talks In 'Copter Jailbreak

EXTRA

Special to The Examiner

MEXICO CITY — The wife of Joel David Kaplan, the alleged CIA agent who escaped with a fellow prisoner by helicopter from Santa Marta Prison a week ago today, doubts if she will ever see him again.

Mrs. Irma Kaplan, a petite Mexican who wed Kaplan by proxy in 1965, told the Associated Press of a visit with him in the prison the day of the escape.

"Well, I'll see you tomorrow," she told him.

"Okay," he replied, offering no hint that a helicopter would swoop down in the prison yard that dusk for the pickup.

28-Year Sentence

"I guess I'll never see him again now," Mrs. Kaplan said.

Kaplan was serving a 28-year sentence for murder when he and Carlos Contreras, 24, of Venezuela were lifted out of the prison, then went their separate ways in planes. One report, never verified, was that Kaplan went to Sausalito.

Mrs. Kaplan said her husband had suffered lung and heart ailments since his transfer to Santa Marta Prison.

Called a Pawn

Mrs. Kaplan, whose daughter, Aura Guadalupe Isabel, 18 months, romped about the apartment where the interview was given, believes her husband was a pawn to Contreras.

"He caused problems between my husband and me and made John extremely jealous of me," she said.

She first met Kaplan in 1964 when she visited another prisoner a year after Kaplan was extradited from Spain in connection with the death of Luis Melchor Vidal. Vidal, a Puerto Rican, reportedly was connected with illegal drug and arms sales.